

Uganda

16 January 2018

242,406

Congolese refugees
as of 31 December 2017

46,600

Congolese new arrivals
from January to December 2017

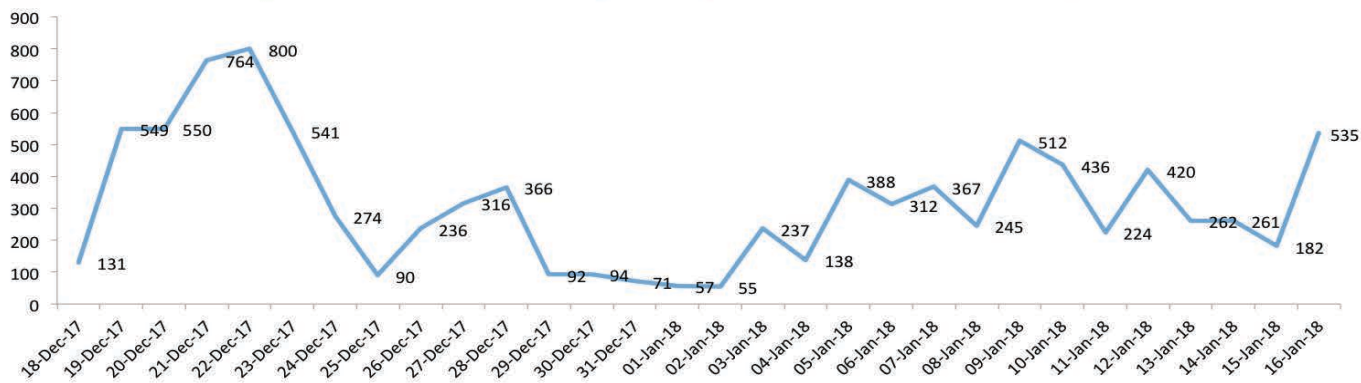
11,435

Congolese new arrivals since
1 December 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Between 13th and 16th January 2018, some 1,240 new refugee arrivals from the Democratic of the Congo (DRC) crossed to Uganda via Kisoro and Kanungu, while no new arrivals were reported across Lake Albert. While the high waves on the lake may prevent people from crossing, there is an information gap *vis a vis* the security and protection situation in DRC's Ituri region.
- Since 18th December 2017, the number of Congolese new arrivals has reached 9,505, including 4,412 who crossed Lake Albert aboard fishing boats and 5,093 others who came in through Uganda's southwestern borders with the DRC. Among the latter, the largest majority entered through Nteko and Bunagana border points in Kisoro, with smaller numbers using Ishasha, Kyeshero, Butogta and Busanza border points in Kanungu.
- The number of daily arrivals through Kisoro entry points continued to be high during the reporting, with a daily average of 310 people. According to refugees arriving at Nyakabande transit centre in Kisoro district, Mai-Mai militia and other armed opposition groups continue to carry out attacks against civilians in DRC's North Kivu, including arbitrary killings, rape, abductions and looting.
- Since 13th January, there have been reports of heavy fighting between government forces and armed opposition groups in and around Beni town, in North Kivu. Under the prevailing security situation, it is likely that a large number of local Congolese may flee and seek safety in Uganda given the proximity of Beni to the Ugandan border (about 85 kilometers). In Uganda, the Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR are monitoring the situation closely and have alerted partners to the potential risk.
- Since 19th December, UNHCR has relocated 4,412 refugees from Lake Albert's shores to Kagoma reception centre in Kyangwali settlement, Hoima district. Some 4,090 have been settled in Malembo C, with 322 others remaining at the reception centre and awaiting land allocation. Biometric registration began in Malembo C on 16th January. A shaded area is needed for refugees awaiting registration. The lack of community-based structures is hindering the ability of partners to coordinate and deliver community-based activities. Some 60 persons with specific needs remain in urgent need of shelter.
- On 14th January, UNHCR transferred 1,114 Congolese refugees from Nyakabande transit centre to Kyaka II settlement (Kyegegwa district), bringing the total number of relocated new arrivals since 21st December to 3,993. The transit centre remains congested, with 2,266 refugees awaiting relocation. The next convoy of over 1,000 individuals is scheduled to depart for Kyaka II on 18th January.
- At Kyaka II, most new arrivals have been already settled in Kakoni and Byabakora, while construction work continues to upgrade Swese reception centre. Plot demarcation in Byabakora is ongoing, but there is a need to speed up the process to quickly accommodate new arrivals. Health and community services personnel is not sufficient for partners to carry out community outreach activities, including awareness raising on health issues, prevention and response to sexual and gender based-violence and referral services.

Congolese new arrivals to Uganda | 18 Dec 2017 - 16 January 2018



©UNHCR/Jimmy Ogwang. UNHCR staff brief Congolese new arrivals at Nyakabande transit centre about relocation procedures to Kyaka II settlement, Uganda.



©UNHCR/Jimmy Ogwang. Congolese refugees go through washing facilities upon arrival at Nyakabande transit centre, Uganda.

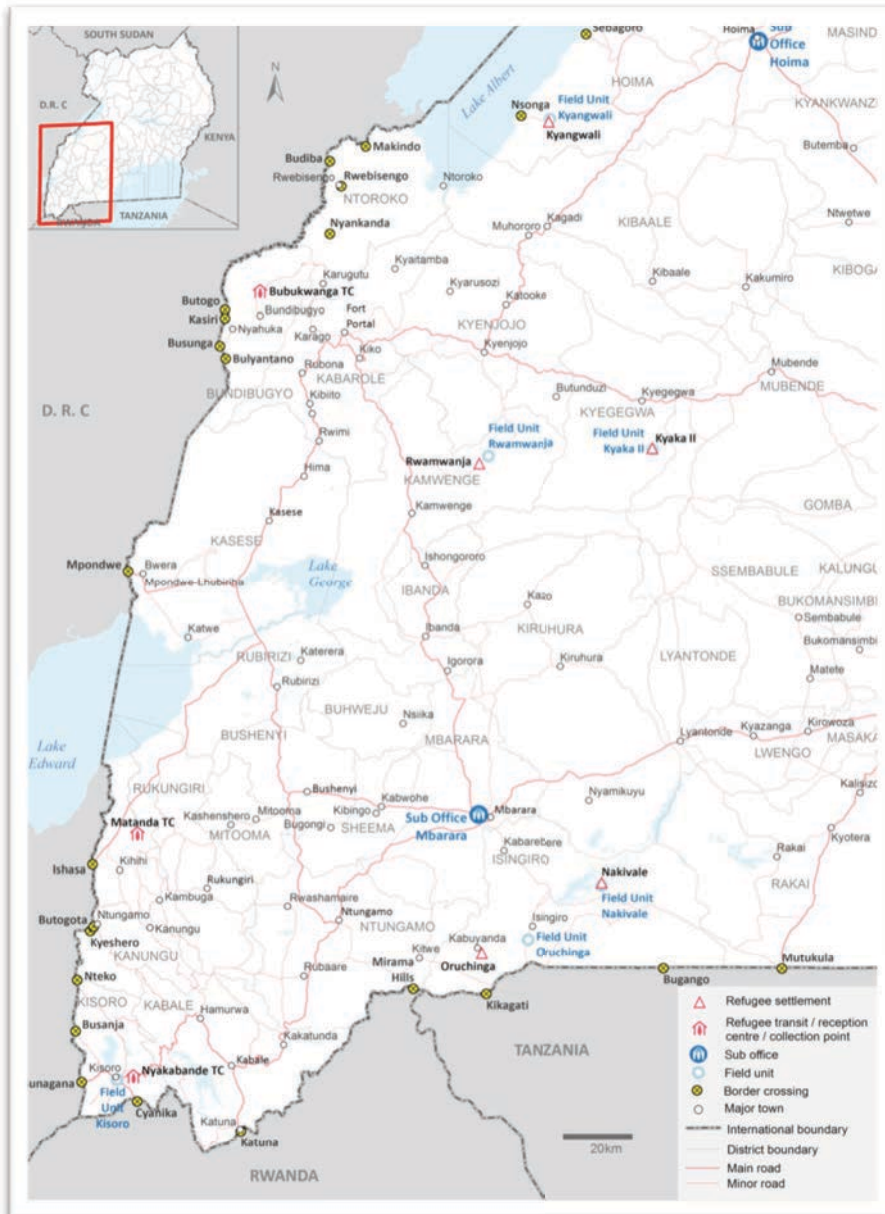


©UNHCR/Dedan Tugaine. Congolese new arrivals undergo biometric registration in Kyaka II settlement, Uganda.



©UNHCR/Doreen Nimusiima. Congolese refugees receive solar lamps from UNHCR in Kyaka II settlement, Uganda.

Map of southwestern Uganda



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